© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. WWW.MARVEL.COM

THE NEW AVENGERS

THE TRUST
PART THREE

PREVIOUSLY...

After the superhuman civil war, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Wolverine and Spider-Woman went underground rather than register their identities with the government. Together with Clint Barton--now wearing the costume of Ronin--Doctor Strange and Iron Fist, they traveled to Japan to rescue Maya Lopez, the deaf woman also known as Echo, from the band of assassins known as the Hand.

When the Hand's leader, Elektra, is killed in battle, her body reverts to its true form: that of a Skrull, a shape-shifting alien. The Avengers are sent into a tailspin of mistrust, especially after Spider-Woman takes the dead Skrull's corpse and disappears.

The Avengers agree to disband for a day and return if they trust each other enough to proceed as a group. While on a hunt for Skrull information, Wolverine discovers the plans of a mysterious villain named the Hood to attack Avengers Tower, headquarters of Tony Stark's Mighty Avengers.

Writer
Brian Michael Bendis

Artist
Leinil Yu

Color Art
Dave McCaig

Letterer
RS & Comicraft's
Albert Deschesne

Production
Taylor Esposito

Assistant Editor
Molly Lazer

Editor
Tom Brevoort

Editor in Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

© 2011 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

THE HOOD

PIECE OF CRAP MUTANT!

BAM BAM BAM

BAM BAM BAM

AAAGHHH!

WOLVERINE

JOHN, BAIL!
GET OUTTA HERE!
CHK
HA!
BAM BAM
BAM BAM BAM BAM
HYARGH!
GET OUTTA HERE, JOHNNY! MEET ME AT THE PLACE.
WHAT THE HELL IS--?!
I GOT IT! GO!
THE REP POINTS ON THIS KILL ARE GOING TO BE--

HHUURRGGHH!
SHICK
HHAAAGG!
AAGGH!
I TOLD YA, PUNK.
Beep
INVISIBLE DON'T WORK WITH ME.
OKAY, PARKER ROBBINS IN THE HOODIE.
LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON WITH YOU AND THE AVENGERS AND DEATH--
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
ARGH!
GUH!
AGH!
MINE'LL GROW BACK.
YOURS, ON THE OTHER HAND...

HHUURRGGHH!

HHUURRGGHH!

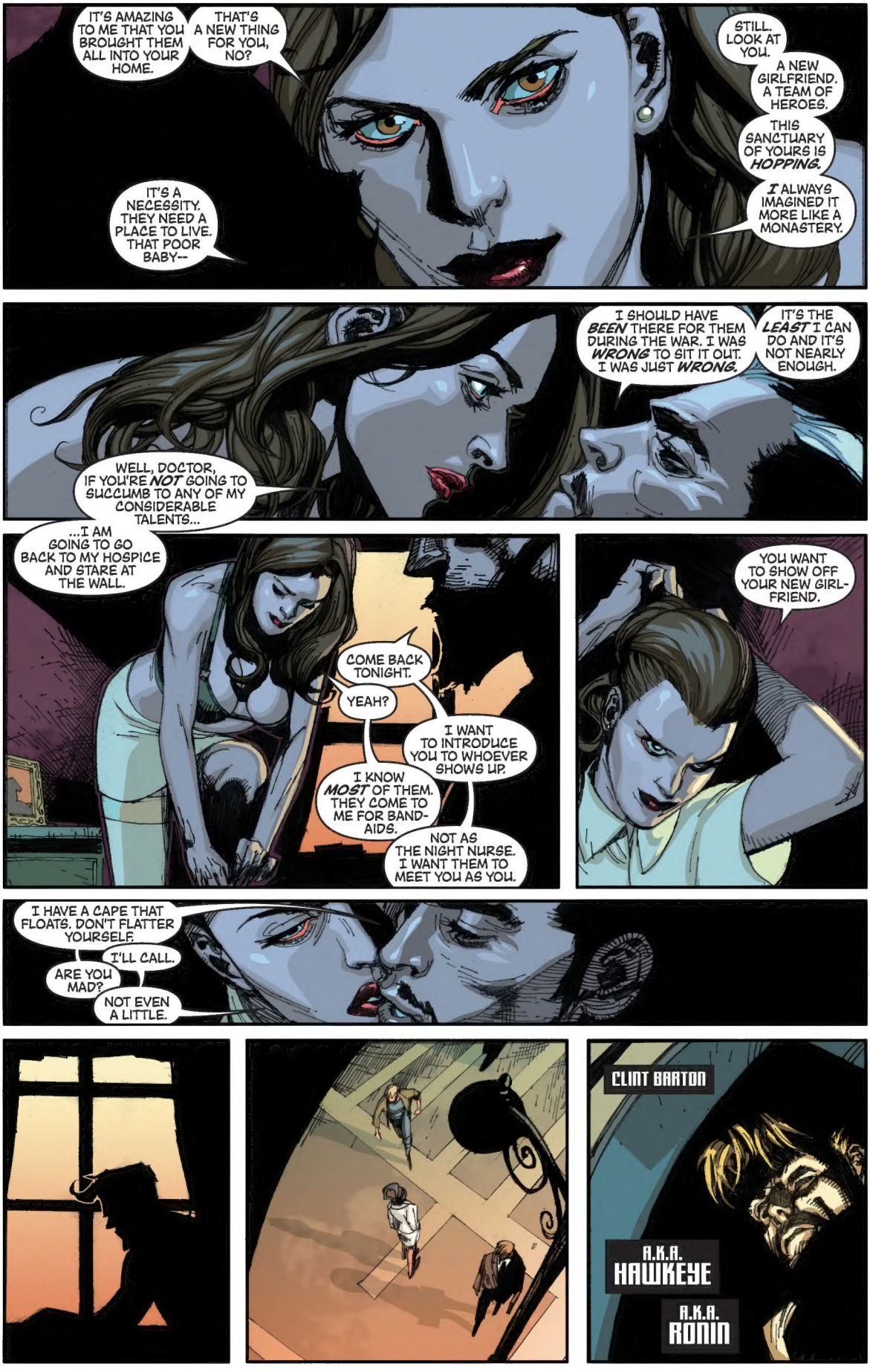
CRASH

AAARRGGHH!

AAARRGGHH!

RRRAARRGGHH!
CRASH
NNNRR...
LOTTO CANDY
SALE
=SNIFF SNIFF=
GONE.
GRR!
GOT NO FIGHT LEFT IN ME, ANYHOW...
CLANK
THERE'RE WORSE PLACES TO SIT AND HEAL.
AGH...
MAYBE IT'LL GROW BACK BIGGER.
(HATE DEMONS.)

AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU THINKING, DOCTOR?
ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD STARBUCKS COMING SOON?
LINDA CARTER, THE NIGHT NURSE
ABOUT YOU.
A DOCTOR SHOULDN'T LIE TO HIS NURSE.
WELL, YOU'RE A NURSE, NOT MY NURSE, AND I'M--
STOP AVOIDING.
DOCTOR STRANGE
I DID ALL MY SPECIAL MOVES AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN ON YOUR ASTRAL PLANE.
I'M JUST CONCERNED FOR TONIGHT.
THIS GROUP. THESE HEROES...
WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO WE CAN TRUST.
I FEEL THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO TO FIX THIS, BUT...
I DON'T KNOW.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S AMAZING TO ME--


IT'S AMAZING TO ME THAT YOU BROUGHT THEM ALL INTO YOUR HOME.
THAT'S A NEW THING FOR YOU, NO?
IT'S A NECESSITY. THEY NEED A PLACE TO LIVE. THAT POOR BABY--
STILL. LOOK AT YOU.
A NEW GIRLFRIEND. A TEAM OF HEROES.
THIS SANCTUARY OF YOURS IS HOPPING.
I ALWAYS IMAGINED IT MORE LIKE A MONASTERY.
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR THEM DURING THE WAR. I WAS WRONG TO SIT IT OUT. I WAS JUST WRONG.
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AND IT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH.
WELL, DOCTOR, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SUCCUMB TO ANY OF MY CONSIDERABLE TALENTS...
...I AM GOING TO GO BACK TO MY HOSPICE AND STARE AT THE WALL.
COME BACK TONIGHT.
YEAH?
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO WHOEVER SHOWS UP.
I KNOW MOST OF THEM. THEY COME TO ME FOR BAND-AIDS.
NOT AS THE NIGHT NURSE. I WANT THEM TO MEET YOU AS YOU.
YOU WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR NEW GIRL-FRIEND.
I HAVE A CAPE THAT FLOATS. DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.
I'LL CALL.
ARE YOU MAD?
NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
CLINT BARTON
A.K.A. HAWKEYE
A.K.A. RONIN

OH MY GOD!
UM...
I'M- I'M-I--
IN OR OUT.
SLAM
MAYA LOPEZ, A.K.A. ECHO
"IT LOOKS FINE, DANIEL."

IRON FIST

I KNOW IT *LOOKS* FINE.

WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT THEN?

DO YOU KNOW *HOW* I ACHIEVE THE IRON FIST?

YOU FOCUS YOUR *"CHI"* TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN CALL UPON THE LEGENDARY IRON FIST.

YES.

BUT I HAD-- RECENTLY, I HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH ANOTHER USING THE FIST.

SOMEONE *ELSE* WAS ABLE TO TAP INTO IT.

WEAKENING *YOUR* ABILITIES.

YES.

UH-HUH.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE *ME* TO DO?

IS THERE A WAY, MYSTICALLY, BECAUSE THAT *IS* THE WORLD WE'RE TALKING ABOUT... ...WHERE YOU CAN HELP ME *STOP* THAT FROM HAPPENING AGAIN?

NO.

YOU DON'T WANT TO MAYBE LOOK IT UP IN YOUR MAGIC BOOKS OR SOMETHING?

BEFORE YOU WERE THE IRON FIST THERE WAS ANOTHER...

YES.

AND BEFORE HIM... ANOTHER.

AND SO ON...

YES.

WELL...

IT WOULD SEEM THAT *EVENTUALLY,* YOUR TIME AS THE IRON FIST WILL END AND IT WILL BE ANOTHER'S TURN.

JUST LIKE THERE WAS A SORCERER SUPREME BEFORE I TOOK THE TITLE.

EVENTUALLY, FOR BOTH OF US, ANOTHER WILL COME ALONG AND TAKE THIS ALL AWAY FROM US.

SOMEONE YOUNGER, SOMEONE MORE HANDSOME...

PROBABLY.

WELL, I HATE THEM.

AS DO I.

BUT ON WEEKS LIKE THIS...

...YOU SOMETIMES *WISH* FOR THEM.

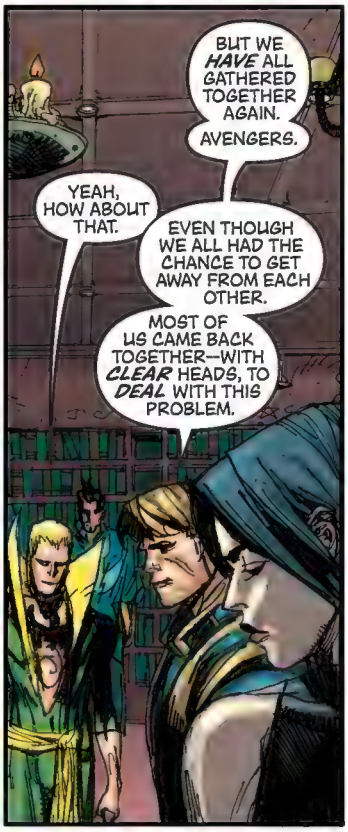
I'M A SKRULL!

SPIDER-MAN
YOU'RE CONFESSING THAT YOU MIGHT BE A SKRULL?
GRANTED, IT COULD BE THAT I'M PUNCHY FROM MY CLONE DAYS AND ALL THE OTHER NONSENSE IN MY LIFE, BUT I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT...
AND YOU'RE CONFESSING.
AND IT WOULD EXPLAIN *A LOT* IF I WAS, LIKE, A *SLEEPER* SKRULL.

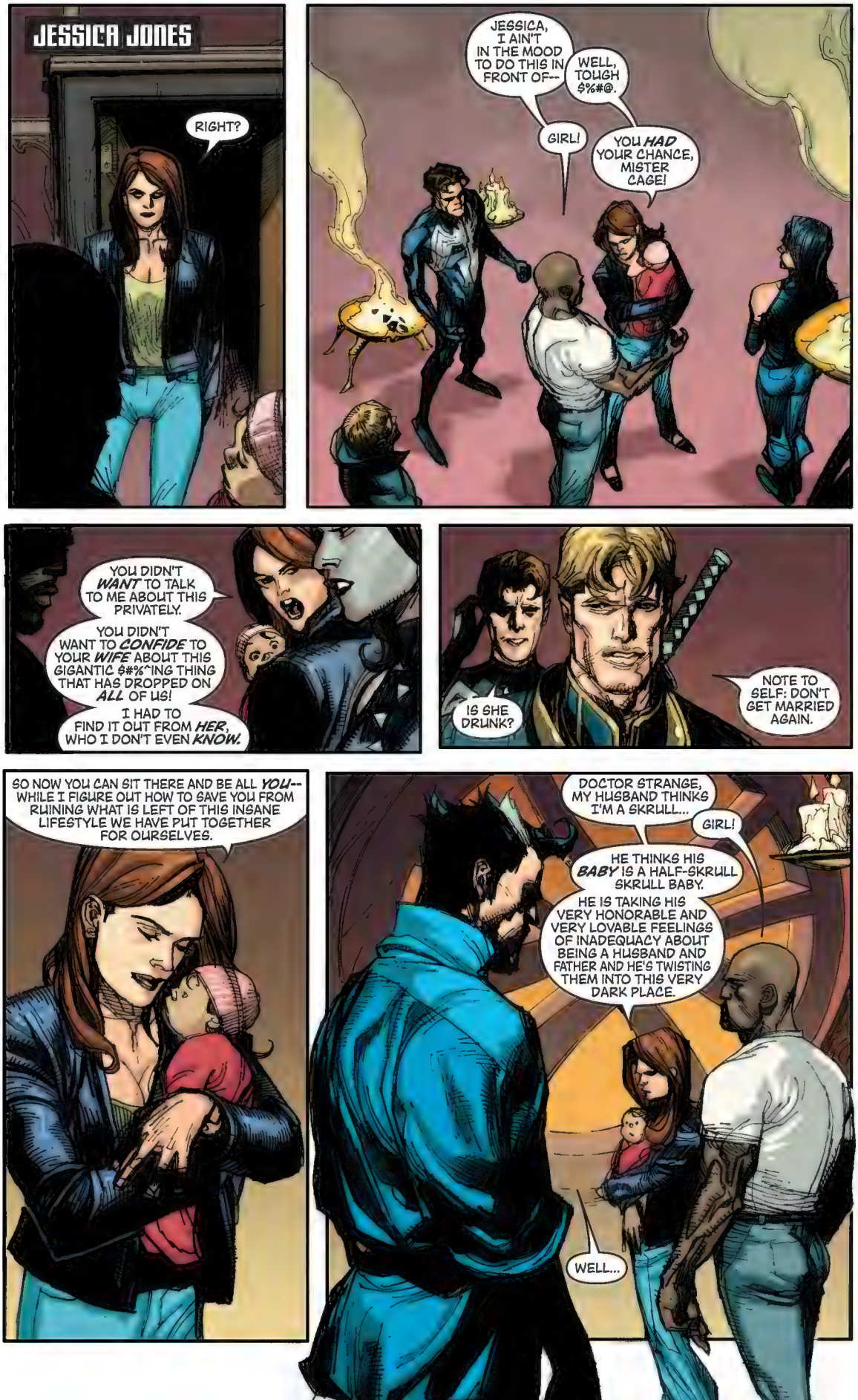
LUKE CAGE
A *SLEEPER* SKRULL?
LIKE I'M A SKRULL AND EVEN I DON'T KNOW I'M A SKRULL.
AND SOMEONE IS GOING TO SAY THE MAGIC WORD, LIKE: MXYZPTLK...
...AND I'LL TURN ALL SKRULLY.

IS IT ME, OR ARE YOU COMPLETELY HAPPY ABOUT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY SKRULLS AND DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT?
I AM, IN THE SENSE THAT WE HAVE A BAD GUY THAT ISN'T TONY STARK.

AND IS IT ME OR ARE *YOU* COMPLETELY HAVING SOME KIND OF PARANOID NERVOUS BREAKDOWN?
I CAN'T HELP HOW I FEEL.
BUT *YOU WERE* THE ONE ALL HAPPY THAT YOU MAYBE KNOW WHO'S BEEN PULLING EVERYONE'S STRINGS DURING *THIS*, THE MOST CRAZY TIME IN ALL OUR LIVES.
YEP.
AND NOW...
I CAN'T HELP HOW I FEEL.


BUT WE *HAVE* ALL GATHERED TOGETHER AGAIN.
AVENGERS.
YEAH, HOW ABOUT THAT.
EVEN THOUGH WE ALL HAD THE CHANCE TO GET AWAY FROM EACH OTHER.
MOST OF US CAME BACK TOGETHER—WITH *CLEAR* HEADS, TO *DEAL* WITH THIS PROBLEM.

NO WOLVERINE.
WELL, HE *IS* ON LIKE THREE OTHER TEAMS. GIVE HIM A BREAK.
COME ON, MAN, GET IT BACK.
I CAN'T HELP FEEL WHAT I FEEL.
DO YOU FEEL SKRULLY?
HE THINKS HIS KID'S A HALF-SKRULL BABY...

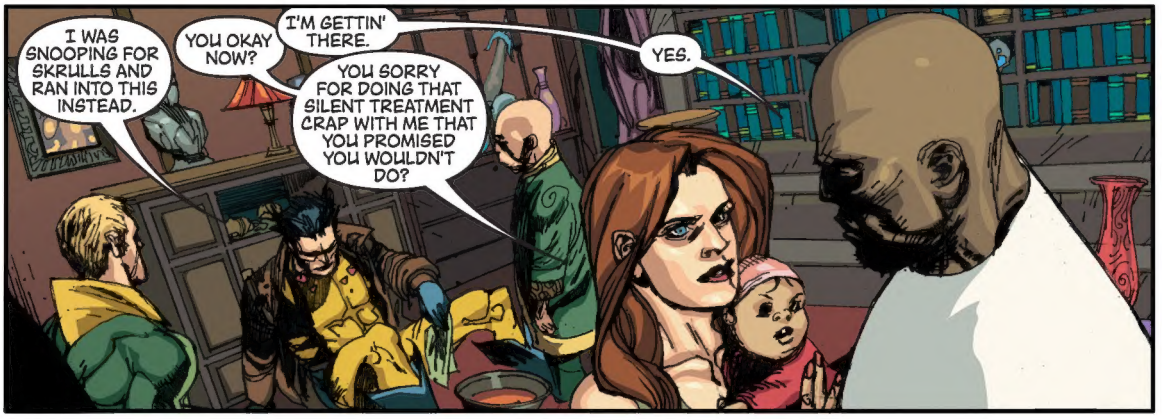

JESSICA JONES
RIGHT?
JESSICA, I AIN'T IN THE MOOD TO DO THIS IN FRONT OF--
WELL, TOUGH $%#@.
GIRL!
YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE, MISTER CAGE!
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THIS PRIVATELY.
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO CONFIDE TO YOUR WIFE ABOUT THIS GIGANTIC $#%^ING THING THAT HAS DROPPED ON ALL OF US!
I HAD TO FIND IT OUT FROM HER, WHO I DON'T EVEN KNOW.
IS SHE DRUNK?
NOTE TO SELF: DON'T GET MARRIED AGAIN.
SO NOW YOU CAN SIT THERE AND BE ALL YOU--- WHILE I FIGURE OUT HOW TO SAVE YOU FROM RUINING WHAT IS LEFT OF THIS INSANE LIFESTYLE WE HAVE PUT TOGETHER FOR OURSELVES.
DOCTOR STRANGE, MY HUSBAND THINKS I'M A SKRULL...
GIRL!
HE THINKS HIS BABY IS A HALF-SKRULL SKRULL BABY.
HE IS TAKING HIS VERY HONORABLE AND VERY LOVABLE FEELINGS OF INADEQUACY ABOUT BEING A HUSBAND AND FATHER AND HE'S TWISTING THEM INTO THIS VERY DARK PLACE.
WELL...

I WAS HOPING WE'D RECONVENE TONIGHT.
BUT I KNEW IF WE DID, THE SAME ISSUES OF TRUST WOULD LOOM.
SO I DID SOME RESEARCH AND I HAVE FOUND SOME SPELLS THAT WILL SHOW--HERE IT IS--THE TRUE SPIRITUAL NATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
OUR TRUE SPIRITUAL NATURE?
A VISUAL PROJECTION OF WHO ONE TRULY IS--
--VERSUS WHO THEY PRETEND TO BE OR ARE TRYING TO BE.
IF ONE WERE CONCEALING ONESELF AS A SHAPE-SHIFTER, IT WOULD MOST DEFINITELY REVEAL THAT.
BUT--
ALWAYS A BUT.
BUT IT IS A VISUAL PROJECTION OF THE TRUE NATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.
A VISUAL PROJECTION FOR ALL OF US TO SEE...
MEANING IT MIGHT BE REALLY EMBARRASSING.
SO IF DEEP DOWN INSIDE, I'M A REALLY HOT ITALIAN LADY JUST DYING TO GET OUT...
WE WILL SEE YOU AS YOU TRULY ARE...INSIDE.
WE'RE NOT GOING BACK TO THE HOUSE OF M, ARE WE?
NO. THIS IS JUST AN IMAGERY SPELL.
BUT WHAT IF WE'RE EXACTLY WHO WE WANT TO BE?
ARE YOU?
IS ANYONE?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE REST OF YOU.
DO IT TO ME SO I CAN GET ON WITH MY LIFE.
JESS...
SHUSH. I WANT MY HUSBAND BACK.
DOCTOR--THROW SOME DRY ICE IN A POT AND LET'S GO.
JESS...
YOUR DAUGHTER NEEDS A FATHER. THIS AIN'T YOU.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO NAME THAT KID ANYHOW?
WE DID NAME HER.
YOU DID?
WHAT?

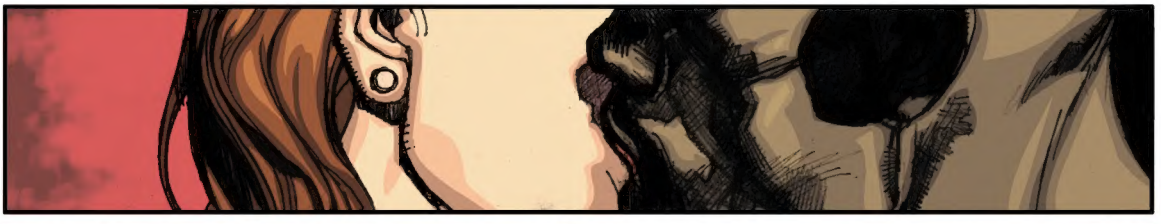
DANIELLE.
DANIELLE CAGE.
THAT'S-- THAT'S REALLY NICE.
YO, MAN, WE DIDN'T NAME HER AFTER *YOU.* WE NAMED HER AFTER--
DANNY PARTRIDGE.
RIGHT.
PARTRIDGE FAMILY.
THAT'S REALLY NICE, GUYS.
YOU'RE HER FAMILY.
YOU *KNOW* THAT, RIGHT?
(UNLESS YOU'RE REALLY A SKRULL, THEN YOU CAN GO @##$ YOURSELF.)
AND YOU GOT MATCHIN' BOOTIES.
MAN, HE'S BEEN WAITING TO DROP THAT JOKE ON YOU.
LET'S SIT.
I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT TO ASK BUT...
...TRY TO... CLEAR YOUR MINDS.

YEAH, OKAY...
I CAN LIVE WITH THAT.
THAT SHIRT!
I CAN LIVE WITH IT.
THAT SHIRT!
WHAT ARE YOU?
THE IRON FIST. THROUGH HISTORY.
NO DRESS.
NO CROSS-DRESSING.
GOOD.
=WHEW=
AND JESSICA JONES *DOES* IN FACT WANT TO BE A SUPER HERO.
#$%@ YOU, I DO *NOT!*
I KNEW IT.
I HATE YOU.
WHO IS THAT?
UH... THAT WOULD BE ME.
WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
I'M NOT FREUD, BUT I GUESS I LIKED ME *BEFORE* I WAS SPIDEY.
UGH.
DAREDEVIL?
HE *IS* WHY I DO WHAT I DO.
THAT'S-THAT'S INTERESTING.
OKAY.
KEEP GOING.
BUT ISN'T THAT GOOD? IT MEANS THAT'S WHO YOU ARE IN--
KEEP GOING!
HEY, IS THAT--?
LET'S JUST LET IT GO.
OH, SORRY.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS DOING?

OH, Y'KNOW...
NOTHIN'.
GANG'S ALL HERE.
NICE.
AND EVERYONE *IS* WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE.
NOT A SKRULL IN THE BUNCH.
GOOD, CAUSE WE GOT #$%% TO DO.
ANYONE KNOW WHO THE HOOD IS?
GUY WITH A HOOD. TURNS INVISIBLE. DEMON CRAZY.
PARKER ROBBINS.
YEAH, I KNOW THAT GUY.
WELL, GUY'S PLANNIN' ON LAUNCHIN' A DEATHLOK AT AVENGERS TOWER.
LUTHER MANNING DEATHLOK ROBOCOP GUY? I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.
YEAH? HE SAID THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU.
THE HOOD'S GOT DEATHLOK AND HE'S LOOKING TO AIM IT AT TONY STARK'S HOUSE.
HOW'D YOU KNOW?


I WAS SNOOPING FOR SKRULLS AND RAN INTO THIS INSTEAD.
YOU OKAY NOW?
I'M GETTIN' THERE.
YES.
YOU SORRY FOR DOING THAT SILENT TREATMENT CRAP WITH ME THAT YOU PROMISED YOU WOULDN'T DO?

THEN I'M SORRY FOR EMBARRASSING YOU IN FRONT OF YOUR FRIENDS.
BUT THIS IS #$%% @#$ SERIOUS.
ALWAYS A BUT--

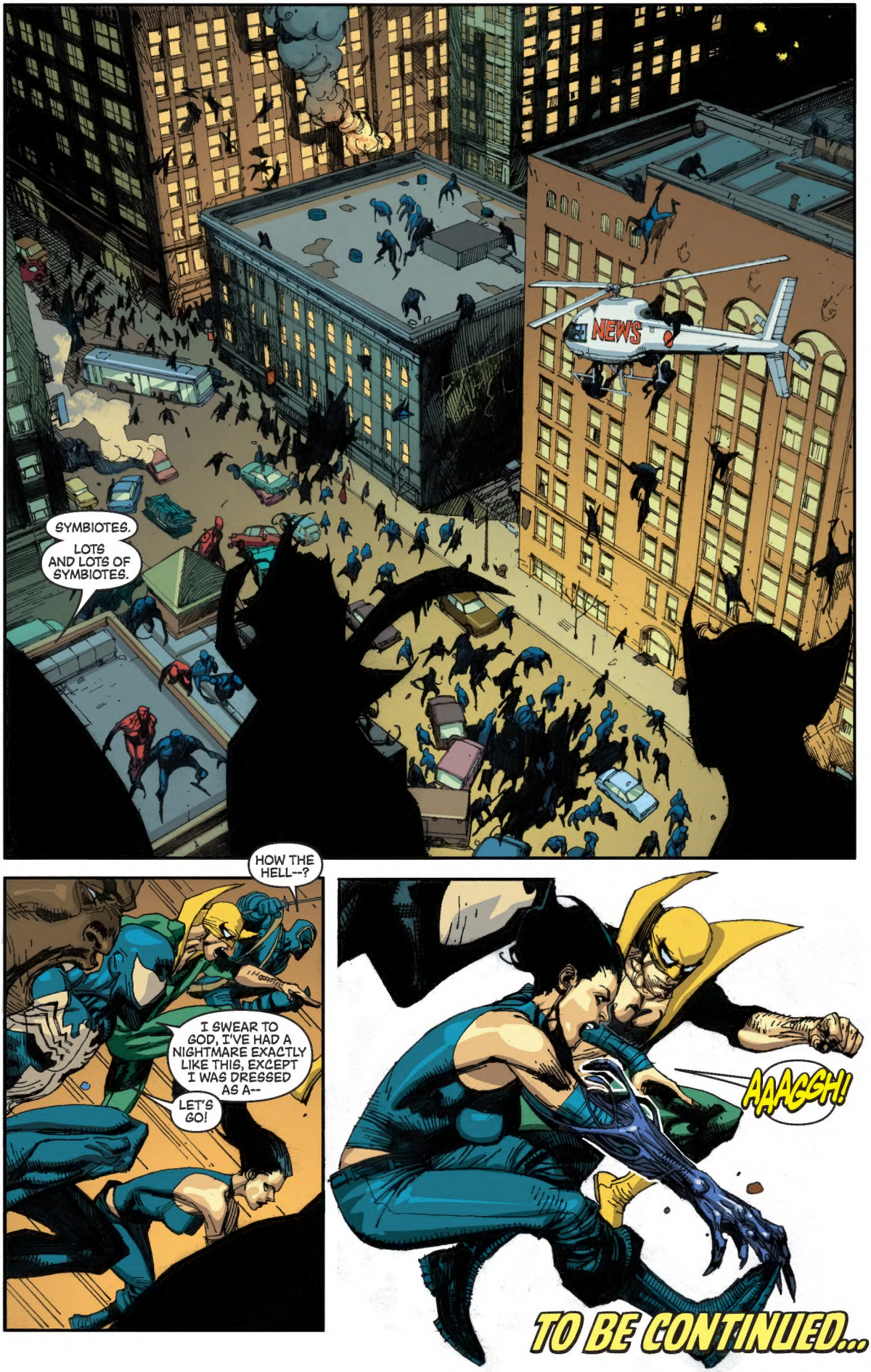


YOU LOOKED GOOD IN THE TIGHTS.
YEAH, RIGHT.
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE SEX AGAIN IN YOUR LIFE.
OKAY, SO HOLD ON... BAD GUYS ARE ATTACKING THE OTHER AVENGERS.
WHAT SHOULD *WE* DO? *CALL* THEM?
WE COULD HOLLER OUT TO THE S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS THAT ARE WATCHING THIS BUILDING.
WE DO WHAT CAP WOULD DO.
WE GO HELP THEM.

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE TRYING TO ARREST *US*.
AND THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
AND THEY'RE TRYING TO *ARREST* US.

REMEMBER YOU ASKED ME HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE'RE THE GOOD GUYS IN ALL THIS?
THIS IS HOW WE KNOW.

"WE DO GOOD GUY #$%@."
AVENGERS TOWER.
I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THERE, SEEMS ODD FOR ME TO HAVE NOT BEEN IN THERE.
OH, IT AIN'T ALL THAT.
UNLESS YOU *LIKE* BEING WAITED ON HAND AND FOOT AND HAVING THE BEST HOT TUB ON THE PLANET...
I MISS JARVIS MORE THAN I MISS MEMBERS OF MY OWN--
QUIET.
OH, COME ON!
THEY AIN'T COMING FOR US.
WHERE ARE THEY GOING?
IS DEATHLOK ALREADY THERE?
OH, MAN...
UH...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
THAT'S NOT DEATHLOK.


NEWS
SYMBIOTES.
LOTS AND LOTS OF SYMBIOTES.
HOW THE HELL--?
I SWEAR TO GOD, I'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE EXACTLY LIKE THIS, EXCEPT I WAS DRESSED AS A--
LET'S GO!
AAAGGH!
TO BE CONTINUED...